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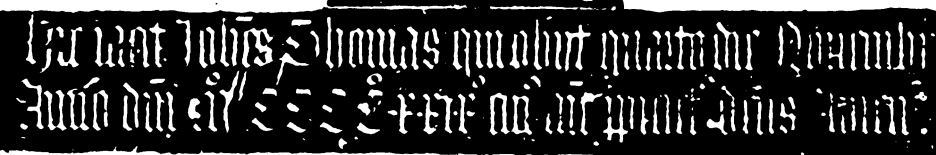
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- James Reid -
1894.



BRASS TO JOHN MOTESFONT.

Lydd,

and its

Church.

BY THOMAS H. OYLER.

Illustrated by Original Sketches.

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TO MY WIFE
THIS LITTLE VOLUME
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

PREFACE.

In placing these few notes before the public I would crave their kind indulgence and beg them to treat gently the many faults which doubtless they contain. It is somewhat difficult in describing churches in detail to avoid reiteration and the frequent use of technicalities. This small book would be even less entertaining were it not for much interesting information respecting the Records, etc., kindly afforded me by Arthur Finn, Esq., of Westbroke, to whom I am greatly indebted. I also owe many thanks to E. J. Wells, Esq., hon. secretary of the St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society, for his valuable suggestions and help ; and to Miss Augusta K. Finn for the Sketches kindly made by her.

The illustrations of the Brasses have been reduced by photography, the lengths of the originals being—
John Motesfont, 3 feet 11 inches ; and John Thomas,
1 foot 8 inches.



Lydd, and its Church.



VISIBLE from all parts of the district, Lydd Church well deserves its appellation of the Cathedral of Romney Marsh, its stately tower rising high above the mass of dark trees at its base.

Around are clustered the various dwellings of the little town, some of them quaintly pretty, with their low thatched roofs and ivy-clad walls, in which reside the congregation who, from time to time, are privileged to worship in such a noble specimen of God's House.

At all times majestic, it is rendered additionally so when its long sloping roofs and those of the surrounding buildings are veiled with snow, and the silver orb of the moon rising behind the tower casts its dark shadow athwart the tombs scattered in the

spacious churchyard. Small wonder that the old Church is looked on as a friend, so closely is it knit with the life of nearly every family, both by joyous and sad reminiscences.

Numberless times have the joy bells pealed forth as the happy bride and bridegroom passed beneath the grand old west doorway to embark full of hope on the voyage of life, and as often the solemn dirge has rolled out when the form of some loved one was borne to its last long rest.

What memories cluster round these homes of the dead? Here lie all that is mortal of generations of the hardy dwellers of the Marsh, busy toilers by land and sea; while mingled with theirs is the dust of many aliens done to death by the cruel storms which so often expend their fury on this treacherous coast, and here laid to rest far from home and friends. The following words from some of the tombs are witnesses of their sad fate:—

“In memory of Capt. Andrew Finley, of Sunderland, who was (shipwrecked) and drowned in the East Bay of Lydd, October 26th, 1855.”

“Sacred to the memory of Capt. Nils Theodor Mog-
lestue, born 20th April, 1816, drowned the 13th
March, 1867, on landing from his brig, Nora, of
Langesund, Norway, wrecked in the East Bay,
Dungeness.”

“In memory of William Norman, passenger in ‘North-
fleet,’ drowned January, 1873, aged 21 years; also
five others unknown.”

"In loving memory of Douglas Nairne Robinson, who was drowned at sea, February 25th, 1887, aged 18 years."

"Sacred in memory of Edward Greenland, who fell from the rigging of H.M.S. Barosa, off Yokohama, & was drowned on the 28th Feb., 1870, aged 17 years."

"The body of a person, name unknown, washed ashore."

"Sacred to the memory of Henry Huddart (Master), Alfred Barnes, Charles Chisent, George Ross, Jean Esquare, Chas. Mariner, William Mason, William Liverpool, Charles Mason, Jean Francois, William Davis, and John Deane, of the Barque Enchantress, of Whitehaven, which was wrecked near Lydd Station on the 26th of October, 1855 ; the entire crew consisted of 13, one of whom (the first mate) was saved."

An inscription in Swedish to some sailors of the ship Ored, wrecked off Lydd, December, 1866.

Here also lie the bodies of many old smugglers, who, in bygone days, thought it no sin to run ashore on the desolate waste of beach some of the finest tobacco and spirits, which doubtless tasted all the sweeter from the knowledge that no duty had been paid thereon. These also were the men who, while not seeking the death of their fellow creatures, prayed that if the well-laden ships were doomed to be cast away it might be on their coasts.

At times the smugglers came into conflict with the representatives of the law. The following lines refer to George Walker, who met his death in this way in 1819 :—

“ Let it be known that I am clay,
A base man took my life away,
Yet freely do I him forgive,
And hope in Heaven we both shall live,
Wife and children I’ve left behind,
And to the Lord I them resign,
I hope He will their steps attend,
And guide them to a happy end.”

The walls of the fine old building are composed of many kinds of stone, some squared in both large and small blocks, others evidently brought from the sea coast, where they had been rounded by the action of the waves ; the interstices are filled with pebbles and rubble, and at places the walls are overlaid with plaster.

In the chancel walls are portions of brick and tile, probably remains of an older church. Many buttresses, some of which have fine stone caps, strengthen the walls. Red tiles cover the nave and aisles ; but, unfortunately, the chancel has a slated roof.

The greater part of the building is of thirteenth century work, although there have been many additions, and a portion of the north-western aisle is probably earlier ; here the lower part of the wall is much thicker, and remains of rude lancet-shaped apertures are seen, which had within them narrow, deeply-splayed lancets. A few stones have been

removed to show the top of a closed doorway built flush with the wall. Looking west is another large doorway, now stopped, the arch being formed of large boulders. Near this a poor modern doorway with imposts and keystone has been inserted.

The window facing west in the north aisle has a hood on two fine corbel heads with curious head-dresses.

Four good buttresses, two at each angle, having pedimental heads, support the chancel walls. The hood mouldings over some of the windows on the south side rest on grotesque corbel heads.

Here, a very low doorway, which had been stopped for years in consequence of the accumulation of earth against it, has recently been opened ; the hood moulding above it has on one side a head wearing the wimple head dress ; to the eastward is a plain benatura with arched head. Above, in a stone, is what appears to be a petrified shin bone.

Tradition says the Danes, in the time of King Sweyn, were defeated on this coast with great slaughter by the Barons of Lydd, and their bones may thus have become incorporated with the adhesive soil and in time have hardened into masses of stone. Beneath the east window of the south chapel is a stone bracket.

The fine, lofty perpendicular tower, nearly 150 feet high, next claims our attention ; at each corner are two buttresses which rise to three stages and are then

cleverly corbelled off and merged into one ; these, as angle buttresses, rise above the parapet and carry the turrets. Some of these are crocketed, others plain ; they have been restored. At the south-west angle is the large stair turret with embattled parapet and crocketed pointed top.

In each face of the belfry stage is a two-light transomed window ; above are single trefoil lights, and below quatrefoil openings. Splendid views of the surrounding country are obtained through the openings in the fine parapet.

Bold string courses surround the walls, and the base mouldings are particularly good. A striking feature of the tower is the beautiful double doorway at the west, which, with the huge window above, is contained within a lofty and richly-moulded arch ; the window has four wide trefoiled lights, with batements which are also trefoiled.

Between the doorways is a bold cylindrical moulding or mullion which runs up the centre of the window, and dividing into two at the base of the tracery extends to the outer arch. The smaller mullions are in the same plane as the tracery. The doorways have rich mouldings and are shafted, the small capitals are circular, and the bases octagonal and stilted. Set in the spandrels are sunken quatrefoils.

The interior of the lower stage is imposing, being of unusual height and beautifully groined. The vaulting ribs, six in each angle, rise from

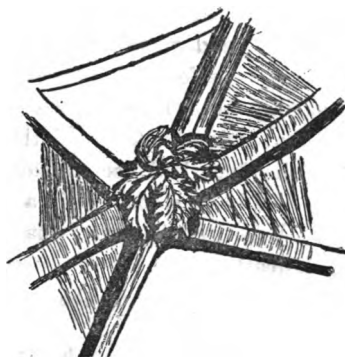
circular shafts with capitals and stilted bases. Some of these ribs extend to the edge of the large circular opening in the centre, through which the bells are



SMALL BOSS.
(Vaulting of Tower).

admitted. Smaller ribs radiate from the larger ones, and at the intersections are carved bosses showing an infinite variety of workmanship. Here we see heads, faces, masks, and beautiful ferns and seaweed, the latter evidently

copied from local specimens. At each corner are figures of angels with outstretched wings.



BOSS AND PORTIONS OF RIBS.
(Vaulting of Tower).

The stair turret doorway is moulded, and has a dagger chamfer stop at the base on each side. Lofty circular shafts carry the tower arch, which has deeply cut mouldings. The floor of the tower is raised above that of the nave, and against the north and

south walls are stone seats. The bells are five in number, bearing the following inscriptions :—

“ Nos. 1, 2, and 3,

ioseph hatch made me O 1608.

“ No. 4, IOSEPH HATCH MADE ME O 1607.”

“ No. 5, IOHN * HYDSON * MADE * ME 1693 ○ ○ HENRY
 ○ IENKIN ○ ○ * RICHARD ○ HANNEKIN ○ CHURCH ○
 WARDENS ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

The circles on Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 are the trade mark of the Hatch family; those on No. 5 are the impressions of coins, some lying flat, others just showing the edge, or lying diagonally. The curfew is rung every evening at 8 o'clock from September to March. There is a tradition that on one occasion an old sexton ascended the tower on a dark winter's night to perform his accustomed duty. In the morning he was horrified to find the large circular covering which closed the aperture in the centre of the floor had been removed, and consequently he must have stood within a few inches of the edge; to have fallen over would have been almost certain death.

Many curious old entries in the records refer to the bells :—

“ 1445 paid Thomas Love carpenter for making the gynne for castying of the belfry.”

“ Paid Richard Wodeman carpenter for making doors for the new belfry 26/8.”

“ 9 sowys of lead in quantity by ship to the Camber.”

“ Paid the plumbere — — for the belfry and for sowdere for the pipys 37/-”

Men were kept on watch in the church steeple for days and weeks together to give early notice of the

approach of an enemy. This was probably on the tower, which then stood in the churchyard. The present tower was formerly surmounted by a steeple.



HEADS TERMINATING HOOD MOULDING.
(Nave Arcade).

On each side of the long nave are the unusual number of seven arches of early English date; they are widely chamfered and the inner members somewhat narrow; the circular piers from which they spring have good capitals and bases, the latter being surrounded by masses of masonry or plinths about two feet thick. A hood moulding extends on both sides over the arcades, finishing above each capital with a corbel head; these are of great variety,

consisting of heads, masks, shields, &c., &c. On one of the latter is depicted a crescent, mullet, tun, and mallet ; some of the faces are hideously grotesque, many have projecting tongues of abnormal length, others with mouths of great size and smiles equally large.

The roof is carried on tie beams and king posts, the rafters being hidden by plaster and whitewash ; the ridge pieces are plain, but the wall pieces and tie beams are embattled ; the spandrels beneath the latter being ornamented with carved elongated trefoils, containing shields and knots of foliage.

The wide, lofty chancel arch is hooded ; the inner member springing from octagonal piers with good capitals and bases. The pulpit and benches are of oak, the latter being copied from the originals.

A handsome lectern is of brass.

The font, of marble, has a cup-shaped fluted bowl on turned stem.



CORBEL HEAD.

The roof of the south aisle is carried like that of the nave on king posts and tie beams ; the carving of the spandrels shows great variety. The wall pieces rest on more of these grotesque corbel heads, which form a most interesting feature of the church, so many faces being seldom found in one building ; while the variety of expression, though not always charming, is certainly curious ; amongst others are the head of our Saviour, a face surrounded by a square head-dress, a pig's face, a dolphin, &c., &c.



CORBEL: HEAD OF CHRIST.

A piscina in the south wall had an ornamented head, but this is now sadly mutilated ; the shelf still remains.

Here are seven windows of two and three lights. Some have flattened heads and batements in the

upper part ; five contain stained glass, one representing Christ with his disciples ; another, Simeon in the temple, bearing this inscription :—

“In memory of George Finn, Esquire, Justice of the Peace of this town, departed this life the 8th of January, 1868, aged 61 years. He filled the office of deputy bailiff for several years, and that of bailiff in 1863.”

Another of two lights to David Denne has a brass plate beneath, on which are these words :—

“To the glory of God and the beloved memory of David Denne, M.A., of this place, Deputy-Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for the County of Kent, formerly Captain of the East Kent and Cinque Ports Yeomanry, and bailiff of this Corporation 23 times ; he died December III., A.D. MDCCCLXI., aged LXIII.”

The others are thus inscribed :—

“To the honour and glory of God. In memory of Katherine Denne, second daughter of David and Katherine Denne ; she died July XXVII., anno domini, MDCCCXLVI., aged LII.

The window above is dedicated to the memory of Katherine Denne, widow of David Denne, by the surviving children. She died September II., anno domini, MDCCCLIX., aged XCII.”

“In memory of Sarah Finn, widow of George Finn, Esquire, Justice of the Peace of this town, departed this life the 2nd March, 1891, aged 83 years.”

“In memory of Mary Finn, who died 1883, aged 80.”

Among other monuments in the aisle is a beautiful one by Flaxman, to the memory of Ann Russell and her child, representing angels bear-

ing a child to heaven. The inscription and the following pathetic verses are beneath :—

ANNE RUSSELL, WIFE OF HENRY RUSSELL, ESQUIRE,
DEPARTED THIS LIFE NOV. 25TH, 1780, IN THE 31ST
YEAR OF HER AGE, AND HER ONLY CHILD HENRY ON
THE 15TH DAY OF JANUARY FOLLOWING IN THE 4TH
YEAR OF HIS AGE.

“ THY PRAYER IS HEARD ! RELEAS'D FROM MORTAL HARMS
RECEIVE THY DARLING INFANT TO THINE ARMS.
'T WAS THINE WITH PATIENCE MEEK TO HEAVEN RESIGNED,
WITH FAITH THAT ARM'D, AND HOPE THAT CHEER'D THY
MIND ;

THY BLOOMING YEARS TO PINING SICKNESS DOOM'D,
THY BEAUTY CANKEE'D AND THY STRENGTH CONSUM'D,
DEATH'S LING'RING STROKE UNDAUNTED TO SUSTAIN,
AND LESS TO FEEL THINE OWN THAN OTHERS PAIN.
THE PIERCING THEROBS OF ANGUISH TO DISGUISE
FROM SYMPATHIZING LOVE'S INQUIRING EYES.
CONCEAL THE TEAR, REPRESS THE STRUGGLING SIGH
AND LEAVE A BRIGHT EXAMPLE HOW TO DIE.

'T IS MINE TO CROWN THY WISH, REWARD THY WORTH,
TO WEAN EACH FOND, EACH YEARNING THOUGHT FROM
EARTH,
AND GIVE THIS MUCH LOV'D OBJECT OF THY CARE :
THY JOYS TO PERFECT, AND THY HEAV'N TO SHARE.”

The inscriptions on other monuments in this aisle are as follows :—

New brass flory cross on wall.

“ TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF EDWARD
WILLIAM DENNE, 3RD SON OF DAVID DENNE, ESQ., OF LYDD, WHO
DIED AT CHELTENHAM APRIL 15TH, 1873, AGED 39 YEARS.
ERECTED BY HIS WIDOW AND CHILDREN. THY WILL BE DONE.”

New brass plate on wall.

“ TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROBERT
ALURED DENNE, BORN SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1838 ; DIED NOVEMBER
26, 1887. THE ALTAR RAILS IN THIS CHURCH WERE GIVEN BY
HIS WIFE.”

The choir stalls are also a memorial to Robert Alured Denne.

Marble tablets, all on south wall.

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF DAVID DENNE, ESQ., OF THIS PLACE, WHOSE EARTHLY REMAINS ARE DEPOSITED IN THE FAMILY VAULT IN THE CHURCHYARD.

HE DIED ON THE 8TH OF FEBRUARY, 1819, AGED 65, LEAVING A WIDOW, KATHERINE (DAUGHTER OF THE LATER ROBERT COBB, ESQ., OF THIS PLACE) AND SIX CHILDREN, NAMELY, ELIZABETH, KATHERINE, DAVID, CECILIA, MARY, JULIA, AND THOMAS."

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MICHAEL RUSSELL, ESQ., WHO DIED AT WIMBLEDON 11TH JANUARY, 1840, AGED 61. ALSO OF HIS SON, ENSIGN HENRY RUSSELL, 20TH REGT. N.I., WHO DIED AT CALCUTTA 5TH NOVEMBER, 1835, AGED 25; AND OF HIS DAUGHTER, JULIA RUSSELL, WHO DIED AT KENSINGTON 3RD JAN., 1836, AGED 19."

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF HESTER, WIDOW OF HENSHAW RUSSELL, ESQ., AND DAUGHTER OF JOHN AND GRACE SKINNER, WHO DIED AT HER HOUSE, MARINE PARADE, DOVER, ON THE 20 JANUARY, 1837, AGED 85 YEARS. ALSO OF HER DAUGHTERS, HESTER RUSSELL, WHO DIED 14 NOVEMBER, 1818, AGED 35 YEARS; AND MARY RUSSELL, WHO DIED 7 DECEMBER, 1818, AGED 33 YEARS.

THE ABOVE MENTIONED HENSHAW RUSSELL, ESQ., DIED 6 JULY, 1795, AGED 47 YEARS, AND HIS REMAINS WERE DEPOSITED IN A VAULT AT ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, FLEET STREET, LONDON."

"SACRED TO THE BELOVED MEMORY OF LOUISA ANNE, THE WIFE OF DAVID DENNE, ESQ., OF THIS PLACE, WHO DIED ON THE 26TH OF SEPTEMBER, 1846, AGED 46. SHE WAS THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE LATE REV. THOMAS COBB, M.A., RECTOR AND PATRON OF IGHTHAM, VICAR OF SITTINGBOURNE, AND PREBENDARY OF CHICHESTER. HER EARTHLY REMAINS ARE DEPOSITED IN THE FAMILY VAULT.

AND I HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAYING UNTO ME, WRITE, BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHICH DIE IN THE LORD, FROM HENCEFORTH, YEA, SAITH THE SPIRIT, THAT THEY MAY REST FROM THE LABOURS, AND THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM."

"THIS TABLET IS ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF DAVID MORRISSON, WHO DIED JULY 17TH, 1852, AGED 66 YEARS.

ALSO OF MARY, RELICT OF THE ABOVE, WHO DIED NOVEMBER 24TH, 1870, AGED 80 YEARS, AND WHO ARE BOTH BURIED IN WYE CHURCHYARD. MRS. MORRISSON LEFT THE SUM OF FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS TO BE INVESTED IN CONSOLS IN THE NAMES OF THE VICAR, BAILIFF, AND JURATS OF THE PARISH OF LYDD IN TRUST AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF SIX POOR FAMILIES AND THREE POOR WIDOWS OF THE SAME PARISH."

"IN THE FAMILY VAULT IN THIS CHURCH ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF HENSHAW RUSSELL, LATE OF DOVER, ESQUIRE, ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT. HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE AT BRUSSELS ON THE 8TH AUGUST, 1847, IN THE 60TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.

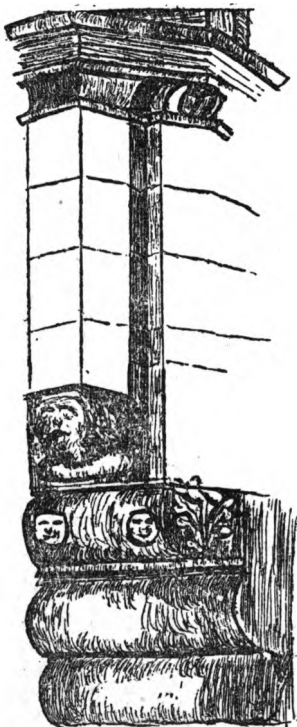
THE ESTEEM ACCORDED TO HIS WORTH WHILE LIVING HAS BEEN SUCCEEDED BY THE HIGHEST RESPECT FOR HIS MEMORY AND THE DEEPEST SORROW FOR HIS DEATH.

IF WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN, EVEN SO THEM ALSO WHICH SLEEP IN JESUS WILL GOD BRING WITH HIM.

THIS TABLET, AS A TRIBUTE OF AFFECTION, IS ERECTED BY HIS NEPHEWS AND NIECES."

In the jamb of one of the windows is a small shallow recess. A beautiful piece of work is seen between this aisle and south chapel, the short shafts supporting the arch being corbelled off in a very clever manner, thereby giving greater floor space at the base; the outer member on the south terminates

with two curious masks, while a head supports the inner one. On the opposite side carved knots of foliage form chamfer stops.



PORTION OF SHAFT BETWEEN AISLE AND SOUTH CHAPEL.

Above the arch are the Royal Arms.

The large handsome windows which light the

south chapel are of three and four lights ; beneath them runs a bold half-circular string course.

In the south wall is a very interesting double piscina, having fluted bowls set beneath a trefoiled arch.

This chapel had formerly three lancets in each outer wall, and the eastern end of the church must originally have been singularly beautiful, possessing as it did nine lancets in the chancel and six in each of the chapels.

The large organ occupies the chapel ; it is a powerful instrument of particularly fine quality of tone, and was purchased by public subscription. It shows two fronts of decorated pipes beneath the north and west arches.

The following is a synopsis of its stops and accessories :—

GREAT ORGAN, C.C. TO G.

1.	Double Diapason	16 feet.
2.	Open Diapason	8 feet.
3.	Stopped Diapason	8 feet.
4.	Dulciana	8 feet.
5.	Gamba	8 feet.
6.	Principal	4 feet.
7.	Harmonic Flute	4 feet.
8.	Harmonic Piccolo	2 feet.
9.	Sesquialtera, 3 ranks	Various.
10.	Clarionet	8 feet.
11.	Trumpet	8 feet.

SWELL ORGAN, C.C. TO G.

12.	Double Diapason	16 feet.
13.	Open Diapason.....	8 feet.
14.	Lieblich gedact.....	8 feet.
15.	Viol de Gamba.....	8 feet.

16.	Principal	4 feet.
17.	Fifteenth	2 feet.
18.	Mixture, 3 ranks.....	Various.
19.	Oboe	8 feet.
20.	Cornopean.....	8 feet.

PEDAL ORGAN, C.C.C. TO F.

21.	Open Diapason.....	16 feet.
22.	Bourdon.....	16 feet.
23.	Violoncello	8 feet.

COUPLERS.

1. Swell to Great.
2. Swell to Pedals.
3. Great to Pedals.
4. Swell (super octave) to Great.
5. Tremulant to Swell.
- 4 Composition Pedals to Great.
- 3 Composition Pedals to Swell.

The builder is Henry Speechly, of London.

The six windows of the north aisle are principally of perpendicular date, some having batement lights. The string course beneath them does not extend the whole length of the aisle, but breaks off at the junction of the older and thicker wall ; in this were two or three small Norman or Early English windows, narrow and deeply splayed ; the quoins of the part of one can still be seen, but the head is walled up.

The arch between this aisle and the north chapel is treated somewhat in the same manner as that on the south, but less elaborately. The chamfer stops are elegant.

Probably the pitch of this aisle was formerly much lower, with a sloping roof ; it is now similar to that

of the south aisle, the wall pieces being supported by other grotesque corbel heads.



CORBEL HEAD.

The memorials here take the form of marble tablets affixed to the wall, and are thus inscribed :—

“SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF ELIZA, WIFE OF CHARLES JAMES BURTON, M.A., VICAR OF THIS PARISH AND CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE OF CARLISLE, AND DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM BOTELER, ESQUIRE, OF EASTRY, IN THIS COUNTY. SHE DIED AT CARLISLE ON THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF JUNE, A.D. 1866, IN THE SEVENTY-FIFTH YEAR OF HER AGE.

ALSO OF THE ABOVE-NAMED CHARLES JAMES BURTON, M.A., WHO DIED AT CARLISLE ON THE EIGHTH DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 1887, AGED NINETY-FIVE YEARS.”

“SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN OF CHARLES JAMES AND ELIZABETH BURTON :—WILLIAM BOTELER, WHO DIED AT LYDD, AN INFANT, ON THE EIGHTEENTH OF MARCH, A.D. 1825. CHARLES JAMES, WHO DIED AT MARGATE, AN INFANT, ON THE TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF MARCH, A.D. 1827.

CHARLES RICHARD, WHO DIED IN INDIA, AGED TWENTY-THREE YEARS, ON THE THIRD OF JULY, A.D. 1853.

ELIZA JULIA, WIFE OF THE REV. EDW. MARSHALL, M.A., WHO DIED AT HASTINGS, AGED THIRTY YEARS, ON THE THIRTY-FIRST OF MARCH, A.D. 1856.

ELIZA MARY BURTON, BORN 30TH AUGUST, 1831, DIED 11TH MARCH, 1892.”

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MARY, WIFE OF CHRISTR. WILSON. PURSER, R.N., AND DAUGHTER OF WILLM. AND ANN ALLEN, OF THIS TOWN, WHO DIED SEPT. 4TH, 1829, AGED 39 YEARS. SHE WAS INTERR'D IN THE BURIAL GROUND OF ST. JAMES, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON.

ALSO A SON, CHRISTR, WHO DIED APRIL, 1823, AGED ONE YEAR. SHE LEFT SURVIVING ONE SON AND ONE DAUGHTER."

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THE REV. THOMAS COBB, A.M., SON OF ROBERT AND CATHERINE COBB, OF NEW ROMNEY, WHO, AFTER A LONG LIFE DEVOTED TO THE FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE OF THE PASTORAL DUTIES, AND THE PRACTICE OF EVERY VIRTUE THAT COULD ADORN IT, FIRST AS CURATE OF THIS PARISH AND AFTERWARDS AS RECTOR OF THE UNITED PARISHES OF UPPER HARDRES AND STELLING, IN THIS COUNTY, DEPARTED THIS LIFE AUGUST 26TH, 1794, IN THE 92ND YEAR OF HIS AGE.

ALSO OF HESTER, HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER OF JOHN AND ELIZABETH SKINNER, OF LYDD, WHO DIED APRIL 8TH, 1800, IN THE 93RD YEAR OF HER AGE.

THEIR SURVIVING ISSUE, ROBERT COBB, ESQ., OF THIS TOWN, AND CATHERINE, RELICT OF WILLIAM BYTHESEA, OF GREENWICH, ESQ., IN AFFECTIONATE REVERENCE TO THEIR PARENTS CAUSED THIS MONUMENT TO BE ERECTED."

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF ROBERT COBB, ESQ., LATE OF THIS PARISH, AND SON OF THE ABOVE-NAMED THOMAS AND HESTER COBB, WHO DIED THE 20TH OF MAY, 1807, AGED 64, LEAVING A WIDOW, FOUR SONS, AND ONE DAUGHTER; ALSO TO THE MEMORY OF AMEY COBB, WIDOW OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ROBERT COBB, WHO DIED APRIL 12TH, 1822, AGED 80."

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MARY MURRAY, DAUGHTER OF MARK AND MARY SKINNER, WHO DIED 8TH JULY, 1829, AGED 86. SHE WAS MARRIED IN 1761 TO BENJ. HOPKINS, ESQ., SON OF THE RT. HONBLE. EDWARD HOPKINS, AND IN 1786 TO GENL. THOMAS MURRAY, SON OF SIR JOHN MURRAY, BART. SHE DIED AND WAS BURIED AT MALTA IN 1816."

A small brass plate beneath one of the windows:—

"TO THE GLORY OF GOD THIS WINDOW WAS RESTORED BY HEL MARIA GILL-BALLARD CHRISTMAS, 1892."

A large wooden tablet shows that the poor of Lydd have not been neglected by their more fortunate neighbours, the names of benefactors here mentioned being Thomas Hart, Thomas Godfrey, Clement Barling, Mary Murray, who, in addition to gifts of money, gave bread and coarse cloth to be distributed on certain days.

High on the walls hang several hatchments.

One bears, "1st and 4th argent a chevron gules between three cocks proper ;" 2nd and 3rd, "argent a chevron between three bulls' heads cabossed sable," bearing an escutcheon of pretence, "Sable a chevron, or, between three swans' heads argent."

Another has, "Argent three hunting horns proper, on a chief azure, three mullets or, surmounted by an escutcheon of pretence argent, a chevron, between three lions rampant sable, on a chief dancette three stags' heads erased, or "

Passing to the north chapel we find it is lighted by large perpendicular windows ; the one facing east has four lights, and occupies the place of the original early English triplet ; the bases of the shafts are *in situ* below the present window ; some of the arch stones are also visible in the wall.

A low window on the north has three lights ; beneath this is an arched recess, having short shafts with moulded capitals and bases, the hood terminating in grotesque heads. Here, on a slab, lies the effigy of a knight, clad in a hauberk of chain mail

with a surcoat, while suspended from his guige, or belt, is a heater-shaped shield. His sword is a large two-handed one. At his feet lies a dog, and his head is cushioned on a pillow. It is thought to be a monument to Sir Thomas de Meynvl or Sir Walter de Meynvl, of Jaques Court, the date being early in the 14th century.

In the centre of the chapel is an altar tomb with plain sides ; a brass affixed to the covering slab of Bethersden marble bears this inscription :—

HERE LYETH BVRIED YE BODY OF CLEMENT STVPPENY
ONE OF THE IVRATES OF THIS TOWNE OF LYDD, WHO WAS
CHOSEN IVRATE OF THE SAME TOWNE IN THE YEARE OF
OVR LORD ONE THOVSDAND FIVE HVNDRED SIXTIE
FIVE, AND AFTERWARDE WAS ELECTED BAYLIFFE OF THE
SAME TOWNE SEVEN SEVERALL TIMES, WHO DEPARTED
HENCE IN THE LORD THE ELEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, IN
THE YEARE OF OVR LORD ONE THOVSDAND SIXE HVNDRE AND
EIGHT, AND IN THE FOVRESORE & THIRD YEARE OF HIS AGE

IN HOLY WRITT THE PILGRIMAGE OF MAN
HERE VPON EARTH IS LIKENED TO A SPAN,
HIS DAYES VNCERTAIN, BRITL E AS THE GLASSE,
HIS CHEIFEST GLORY LIKE THE WITHERINGE GRASSE;
A FLOWER IN FEILDE DOTH FLORISH FAIRE A DAY
ERE MORROW MORNE IT VANISHETH AWAY;
SVCH IS OVR STATE, WEE NOW IN GLORY FLORISH,
BVT IN AN INSTANT SVDDENLYE DOE PERISH.

A curious custom was annually observed in connection with this tomb. On St. Mary Magdalen's Day the jurats of the town assembled around the tomb and elected the bailiff for the year. A similar custom prevailed at New Romney.

Here also lies buried Lawrence Stuppeny, son of Clement Stuppeny. The following inscription to his memory is on a brass plate affixed to the south wall :—

HERE LYETH BVRIED THE BODY OF LAVRENCE STVPPENYE
BATCHELOR, SONE OF CLEMENT STVPPENYE, IVRAT, WHO
HATH BEENE BOTH IVRAT AND BAYLIEF OF THIS TOWNE,
WHO DIED THE NINTH OF OCTOBER, 1613.

On the opposite wall is another brass plate, thus inscribed :—

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF JOHN BERREY, WHO WAS
CHOSEN A IVRATT OF THIS TOWNE OF LIDD IN THE FIRST
YEARE OF THE REIGNE OF QVEENE ELIZABETH, & 80
CONTINVED TIL HIS DEATH. HE WAS FYVE TIMES BAYLIF OF
THE SAME TOWNE, AND DYED THE XVTH DAY OF DECEMBER,
IN THE FORTIETH YEARE OF THE REIGNE OF THE SAID
QVEENE AND IN THE FOWER SCORE AND SECOND YEARE OF
HIS AGE, ANNO DNI 1597.

HE THAT THIS SLENDER MONVMENT DID FRAME
WAS HEIRE TO BERREYS FORTVNES AND HIS NAME
PART OF HIS OWNE ONE HIM HE DOTH BESTOWE,
HIS GREATER LOVE IN SOME SMALL SORT TO SHOWE.

Above the doorway leading to the chancel are four brass figures, which were formerly on the floor of the Church : two females, one wearing a very large hat and ruff, the other a close-fitting cap and a cape ; and two males attired in jurat's robes : one is probably the effigy of Lawrence Stuppeny ; and two of the others, Thomas Harte and Malyn his wife.

There were formerly brasses to members of the Dering family, who resided at Westbroke, in this

parish ; also one to Thomas Atte Bregge, which bore this inscription :—

“Of your charity pray for the soul of Thos. Atte Bregge, who died on the Feast of S. Leonard the Confessor, Novr. 6, 1442, and did make the roof of the Church so far as 45 copelings goeth, which did cost him 45 marks.”

The most striking features in the chancel are the beautiful early English lancets, three on each side, with trefoiled inner arches and hoods, terminating in some cases in carved heads ; these are a splendid example of 13th century work. Beneath them runs a bold cylindrical string course. The large window facing east is perpendicular, having five cinquefoiled lights ; in the heads are fragments of old stained glass, one being probably that of the “Boy Bishop.” Plain arches divide the chancel from the side chapels. On the north a portion of the western pier has been cut away to allow worshippers in the south aisle to see the altar. Beneath this arch is some good screen work of unusual design, consisting of small cinquefoiled arches set at varying heights ; the transoms are embattled. In the south doorway of the chancel is an iron gate, which has been copied from this screen. On the south is an ascending sedilia, the two plain seats being beneath shouldered arched heads.

The floor of the chancel is on the same level as that of the nave, but the sacarium rises three steps.

Beneath the altar, which is adorned with a handsome frontal, is the old altar stone. Recently the walls have been faced with Minton tiles. In the east wall is a plain aumbry. The roof is nearly flat and boarded with panels, with slight ribs. Plain doorways open to the chapels.

The oak prayer desks have carved poppy head ends, which are coloured and gilded; these formerly formed part of the mayor's seat and corporation pews. Within the altar rails are stone slabs to William Boteler Burton, born July 27th, 1824, died March 18th, 1825; and the Rev. W. P. Warburton, died July 7th, 1821 (who were buried here), and two brass plates bearing these words:—

ARCTVS AD CŒLOS ADITVS DECORA
ARCTIOR MVLTQ LATET IPSA PORTA
SOLVS HAC ALTAM REPIIT IN QVIETEM
LACTEVS INFANS

ROBERTVS PRIMOGENITVS RICHARDI GODFREY GENT
NATVS XI AVG HINC DEMIGRANS XXVII OCT PROXIME
SEQVENTIS HIC NIMIS CITO CIT'EST 1616.

"HERE LIETH THE BODIE OF JOHN GODFREY, THE FOVRTH
SONNE OF THOMAS GODFREY, GENTLEMAN, WHOE HAVINGE
BEENE A STVDENT IN THE SCHOOLE OF PROTESTANTS,
NEERE ROANE, & IN HARTS HALL, IN OXFORD, & HAVINGE
ATTAINED TO THE LATINE & FRENCH TONGVE, DEPARTED
THIS LIFE THE 2 OF FEBRVARYE, IN THE 13 YEERE OF HIS
AGE, ANNO DNI 1612. HODIE MIHI CRAS TIBI."

Another member of this family, Thomas Godfrey, has a memorial on the north wall in the form of a

bust; he wears a frill and blue doublet, crossed by a scarf.

Beneath is the following :—

“THE SAYD THOMAS GODFREY HEERBY INTERRED LEFT ISSVE BY HIS THREE SEVERALL WIVES THREE SONNES AND ONE DAUGHTER, VIZ., PETER, THOMAS, RICHARD, AND MARY; ALL WHICH HEE LIVED TO SEE WEELE DISPOSED OF IN MARRIADGE INTO SEVERALL WORTHY FAMILIES & TO BEE PARENTS OF MANY HOPEFVLL CHILDREN, TO HIS GREAT COMFORT, TO WHOME, IN RETVRN OF PIOUS GRATITVDE AND DVTTY, THOMAS, HIS SECOND SONNE, AND SARAH, HIS WIFE, HAVE PLACED THESE MEMORIALLS.”

Yet another member of this family is interred in the centre of the chancel beneath a blue slab, on which is a shield bearing “a chevron between three vultures heads erased,” and an inscription as follows :—

“TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS GODFREY, ESQVYRE, BORNE AT NEW ROMNEY IN THE YEARE OF OVR LORD GOD 1553.

SONNE & HEIRE OF PETER GODFREY, OF LYDD, GENT., WHERE HEE & HIS ANCESTOVES HAVE CONTINVED IN GOOD ESTEEM AND REPVATION FOR ABOVE TWO HVNDRED YEARES, AS APPEARES BY THEIR FVNERAL MONVMENTS YET EXTANT IN THE SAID CHVROH AND ALSOE BY THEIR SEVERAL WILS AND TESTAMENTS PROOVED IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE AT CANTERBURY AND LONDON.

HEE WAS CAPTAIN OF THE HORSE FOR ABOVE FORTY YEARES TOGETHER BEFORE HIS DEATH.

NOTWITHSTANDING WHICH HEE HIMSELFE WAS CHARGED WITH & DID FIND AT EVERY MVSTER FIVE LIGHT HORSE AND TWENTYE FOOT.

HEE WAS A FRANK HOWSEKEEPER, HOSPITABLE TO STRANGERS, AND CHARITABLE TO YE NEEDY.

HEE LIVED BEELOVED, AND DIED LAMENTED OF ALL, ESPECIALLY YE POORE, IN THE THREE-SCORE & ELEVENTH YEARE OF HIS AGE, BEING IN THE YEARE OF OVR LORD GOD 1623.”

A similar slab on the north has

"HERE LYETH INTERR'D THE BODY OF JOHN FOWLE, OF DYM-
CHURCH, GENT., AND WITH HIM MARY, HIS FIRST WIFE, BY WHOM
HE HAD ISSUE SIX CHILDREN, THREE OF WHOM HEE LEFT SURVIVING,
VIZ., MARY, JOHN, AND JAMES. THE SD MARY HIS WIFE DIED
THE 16TH DECEMBER, 1706, AGED 33 YEARS. HE DIED MARCH
17TH, 1727, AGED 61 YEARS. THE SAID JOHN FOWLE WAS TOWN
CLERK OF THIS CORPORATION OF LYDD 39 YEARS, AND CLERK TO
THE LORDS OF ROMNEY MARSH 21 YEARS, BOTH WHICH OFFICES HE
ENJOYED TILL THE TIME OF HIS DEATH. TO WHOSE MEMORY JOHN
FOWLE, HIS SON AND ONLY EXECUTOR, CAUSED THIS TO BE HERE
PLACED."

On south wall :—

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THE REVD. WILLIAM PHILIP WAR
BURTON, M.A., LATE FELLOW OF JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, VICAR
OF THIS PARISH, AND DOMESTIC CHAPLAIN TO THE MOST REVEREND
JOHN MOORE, D.D., ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY. HE DIED JULY
7TH, 1821, AGED 59 YEARS, AND WAS BURIED IN THIS CHANCEL.

THIS TRIBUTE OF AFFECTION TO HIS BELOVED MEMORY IS
ERECTED BY HIS WIDOW AND ONLY DAUGHTER."

A small brass plate :—

"HERE LIETH MARY, SOLE DAUGHTER, AND HEIRE OF THOMAS
PARTRIDGE, OF IDEN, IN THE COVNTY OF SVSSEX, GENT.,
FIRST WIFE OF THOMAS GODFREY, OF LID, ESQ., BY WHOM
SHE HAD ISSVE ONE ONLY SONNE, PETER. THE SAIDE MARY DIED
19 JANVARI, ANO. DNI. 1580."

Above is a shield with the arms of Godfrey and
Partridge impaled. The engraver had described
Thomas Partridge as "of the Isle of Oxney," this is
partially defaced and the words "Iden in the Covnty
of Svssex" very roughly incised.

The brass effigy of John Motesfont,* a former
vicar, on the south side of the chancel, is a hand-
some one. He wears academical robes and his hands
are in the usual attitude of prayer. Rough
spaces now appear on the brass, which were

* See Frontispiece.

originally filled with white enamel to represent ermine. The marginal inscription is much mutilated, but the one at his feet, which is reversed, is as follows :—

*“Hic iacet Magist Jobes Motesfont utriusq’
Juris Bacallari et nup Vicari istius ecclie qui obiit
vj die Novembris anno dni mccccx cuius aie
ppicietur deus Amen.”*

On a scroll proceeding from his mouth :—

“Miserere mei deus sedm magna miam tua.”

The wide, lofty chancel arch springs from octagonal piers, the capitals of which have good mouldings, which are continued as impost mouldings along the wall. Beneath the arch is a slab inscribed thus :—

*“HERE LIETH THE BODIE OF DAME DOROTHEY PALMER, OF
THE AVNCIENT FAMELY OF THE SCOTTS, OF HARTFORDSHIRE, SOME-
TYME WIFE AND WIDDOW OF THOMAS HERNDEN, ONE OF THE
MAGISTRATS OF THIS TOWNE OF LYDD, AND SINCE WIFE AND
WIDDOW OF SIR HENRY PALMER KNIGHT, CONTROWLER OF HIS MS
NAVIE. SHE DIED THE 21ST OF IVLIE, A. DNI. 1621.”*

A small slab close by is so worn that the words are undecipherable.

The floor of the long nave is plentifully scattered with memorials of past generations of inhabitants of Lydd, both in stone and brass; the most important of the latter being that of Thomas Godfrey and wife, 1430; the figures stand beneath richly-foliated and crocketed canopies, with buttressed pinnacles at the sides; they are much mutilated, and nearly all the inscription is missing.

A later one to Peter Godfrey and wife, 1566, represents the said Peter in jurat's robes. Beneath are these words :—

"Here lyeth buryed the bodyes of Peter Godfrye and Jone his wyfe which Peter decessyd the x day of Marche in the yere of o Lorde God mccccclxvi and the sayd Jone decessyd before him in the yere of o Lorde God mccccclvi havng by her v s —"

On others as follows :—

"HERE LYETH BVRYED THE BODY OF WILLIAM DALLETT, OF LIDD, WHO DYED THE 28 OF IANVARY, 1598, BEINGE THEN BAYLYF OF THIS TOWNE, AND IN THE 40 YERE OF QVEENE ELIZABETH REIGNE, & IN THE 48 YERE OF HIS AGE, LEVING BEHINDE HIM THREE SONNES AND THREE DAUGHTERS."

"As nature breath & lyfe doth yelde,
So drawes on death by kynde,
And yet throughe fayth in Chryste by deathe,
Eternall lyfe we fynde.
Beholde a prose by me that dyd
Enioye my vitall breath,
Full thre skore yers and twelve thereto,
And then gave place to death.
A juratt of thys towne was i
And Thomas Bate by name,
Like the i was and now am dust,
As thow shalt be the same.
Fower chyldren now my place supplie
My soule it ys wyth Chryst
Who sende to them and the good lyfe,
And eke in hym to rest.

Obiit 18 die Junii, anno dni 1578."

The figure wears Bailiff's robes trimmed with fur ;
his beard is long and pointed.

The one to John Thomas is in a good state of

preservation ; he wears a hood and very loose sleeves.
Beneath are these words :—

"**Hic iacet Jobes Thomas qui obiit quarto die
Novembr anno dni mccccxix cui ale ppiciet deus
Amen.**"



Hic iacet Jobes Thomas qui obiit quarto die Novembr
anno dni m^o cccc^o xix cui ale ppiciet deus Amen

BRASS TO JOHN THOMAS. DATE 1429.

Two other small figures are without inscriptions. Stone and marble slabs are inscribed thus :—

“HERE LIETH THE BODY OF JOHN MORGAN, LATE OF GARD-DANIEL, IN YE COUNTY OF MERIONETH, GENT., WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE SEPR. THE 23RD ANNO. DOM. 172— AGED 45 YEARES.”

“EDWARD, YE SON OF EDW. MASTER, GENT., & KATH, HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER OF THOM BATE, OF LYD, GENT. AFTER THE TRAVEL OF 58 YEARES, WHEREIN HE WAS ONE OF THE IVRATS OF YE TOWNE & PORT OF NEW BOMENEY & ONCE MAIOR THEREOF, HERE IS LAID TO REST IN EXPECTATION OF A JOYFULL RESURRECTION THROVGH CHRIST, O.B. NOVEM. 14, 1674.”

“THIS LYES VPON
FATHER AND SONNE.

JOHN, THE SONNE OF THOMAS BATE, AND THOMAS, THE SONNE OF JOHN BATE, GENT., AND OF THE MOST ANCIENT HOVSE.

JOHN DIED APRIL YE 16, ANO. 1642, AGED 38 YEARE. IVRAT OF THIS TOWNE AND ONCE BAYLIFFE.

THOMAS DIED IANVARY YE 27TH, ANO. 1657, AGED 24 YEARE.

MORS SOLA FATETUR QUANTULA
SUNT HOMINUM CORPUSCULA.

TIS DEATH ALONE CAN SPEAKE
HOW FRAYLE WE ARE. HOW SOONE OVR BODYES BREAKE.

HORUM FILLÆ ET SORORES
HUIUS TUMULI SUNT AUTHORES
KATHERINE BATE, ANNE BATE.”

On the upper part of this slab are two shields of white marble let into the stone ; one bears a “fesse between three dexter hands.” Around, incised in the slab, is a wreath with a “sun in splendour” surrounding a face looking over the top of the shield.

“BORNE DECEMBER THE 15TH, ANO. 1571.

HERE RESTETH THE BODY OF JOANE, THE WIFE OF THOMAS BATE, THE ELDER GENT ADIACENT ; WHO HAD ISSUE BY HIM THREE SONES, THOMAS, THOMAS, & JOHN, & THREE DAUGHTERS, KATHARINE, SIBBILL, AND JOANE ; DAUGHTER AND COHEIRE VNTO EDWARD WILCOCKE, GENT.

EMINENT IN HIS TIME AND IN THESE PARTES, WHO AFTER SHE HAD ATTAINED VNTO TO A GOOD OLD AGE, FVLL FOVRE-SCORE

YEARES AND THREE-QUARTERS, AND BEENE A LIBERAL HOVSE-KEEPER IN THIS TOWNE THREE-SCORE AND THREE YEARES COMPLETE, FINISHED HER COURSE SEPTEMBER. THE 15TH, ANO. 1652.

DANIEL'S CONFINDE SHE DID SURPASSE,
DOVETLESSE HER SOVLES NOW WHERE IT WAS.

MONUMENTUM AC MORTUÆ AC VIVARUM NEMPE COLLOCARUNT
NEPTEO IOANE TOOKEY KATHERINE BATE ANNE BATE."

"HERE LIETH YE BODY OF RICHARD BATE, GENT., SON OF JAMES & ALICE BATE, SOMETIME OF THIS TOWNE; HE LEFT ISSVE BY HIS FIRST WIFE, SVSAN, DAVGHTER OF GEORGE ISHAM, OF LONDON, GENT., ONE SON, VIZ., IAMES; AND WITH HIM HERE LYETH YE BODY OF ELLEN, HIS SECOND WIFE, DAVGHTER OF MR. JOHN WALLIS, SOMETIME MINISTER OF ASHFORD, IN THIS COVNTY, BY WHOM HE HAD ISSVE 4 SONS AND ONE DAVGHTER, RICHARD, JOHN, SAMUEL, STEPHEN, & ANNE.

WHEN HE HAD LIVED WITH HER NEER TWENTY YEARE SHE DIED YE 17TH DAY OF IVNE IN THE 42 YEARE OF HER AGE.

HE DIED YE 6TH DAY OF MARCH FOLLOWING, ANNO. 1656, IN THE 47TH YEARE OF HIS AGE, AFTER HE HAD BEEN BAYLEIF OF THIS CORPORATION SIX TIMES.

STATUTUM EST OMNIBUS SEMEL MORI."

"HERE LYETH YE BODY OF THOMAS BATE, OF THAT AVNCIENT FAMILY IN THE TOWN OF LYDD, WHO WAS FREEMAN NIERE IX YEARES———CHOSEN BAYLYFFE

———LIEUTENANT OF THE
TRAYNED BAND 15 YEARES; HE LIVED IN HOLY WEDLOCKE———
48 YEARES, BY WHOM HE HAD ISSUE THREE SONNES———
DAVGHTERS. HE WAS BORN YE 6TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1567, AND
WAS BURYED YE 5TH DAY OF MAY, 16—."

"HERE LIETH INTERR'D YE BODY OF ELIZABETH, YE WIFE OF THO. PLUMMER OF THIS TOWN, WHO HAD ISSVE BY HIM THREE SONNS & TWO DAUGHTERS, VIZ. THO., JOHN, SAMUEL, JOANE, AND ELIZ.; & LEFT SURVIVEING ONLY THO., JOHN, AND SAMUEL. SHE DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 8TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1705, AGED 29 YEARS.

AND YE SAID SAMUEL DIED YE 20 OF OCTOBER FOLLOWING, AGED THREE MONTHS.

ALSO HERE LYETH BVRYED THE BODY OF THOMAS PLUMMER, GENT., WHO DIED DECEMBER 31ST, 1725, AGED 51 YEARS.

HERE LIETH ALSO MARY AND JANE BY HIS SECOND WIFE.

HERE ALSO LIETH YE BODY OF MARY, SECOND WIFE OF YE ABOVE THOMAS PLUMMER, WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE SEPTEMBER YE 10TH, 1751, AGED 81 YEARS."

"IN MEMORY OF JOHN PLUMMER, WHO DIED APRIL YE 26TH
 AGED 69 YEARS. ALSO
 HIS WIFE, WHO DIED——MARCH YE 18TH, 1776, AGED——
 YEARS, LEFT SURVIVING THOMAS AND JANE."

"HERE LIETH YE BODY OF JOHN, THE SONNE OF PETER AND
 MAPLEDEN, GENT. HE WAS BVRIED THE 2 DAY OF
 IVNE, AO. DNI. 1640, AGED 5 MONTHES."

As will be seen from the foregoing Lydd Church is rich in brasses, but there were formerly even more, the matrices of several others remaining.

A few old tiles are to be seen on the floor, and remains of frescoes on the walls are still visible.

Handsome brass chandeliers of massive construction hang from the roof, the principal one is to the memory of Thomas Harte, a pious benefactor, but elegant coronæ are now in use, the Church being lighted by gas.

The Church plate consists of a cup about 6 inches high, with bands of foliage and other ornamentation. Date about 1560.

An alms-dish on a foot, bearing a shield between a dolphin and trefoil, 1680.

Paten, about 10 inches in diameter, 1705.

Paten inscribed "For the use of the Church of Lid. John Skinner, Churchwarden. 1719."

A small cup, bearing the name and crest of the Rev. Dr. Thomas Tenison, Vicar of Lydd, and son of the Archbishop. 1740.

A small paten of same date.

D

The Register dates from 1540, but up to 1600 it is a copy. On the first succeeding page is written This Register agreeth with the old, being perused by us, John Whight, Curate.

1600.

———, Churchwardens.

On a fly leaf is the following :—Memorandum. That the Church of Lydd was decorated and beautified as it is with paintings and writings at the proper costs and charges of John Masterman in Oct., 1615, he being then churchwarden.

Memorandum.

That on the 7th of January, 1724, his Majesty George ye first, came from Rye to Lydd on his way to London from Hanover ; he was driven to Rye by a storm, and landed on the beach about Jews Gut, and walked from thence to Rye, very much fateagued. He was detained there till Friday by a deep snow ; he was received at Lydd by ye Balif and Corporation, over against Mr. Lee's door. The trained band was under arms, and lined the street. Ye bells rang, a large ship's flag was displayed on ye great pinnacle of ye steple, and ye great guns and small arms were fired as his Majesty passed through ye street.

Mr. Baliff upon ye stopping of his Majestie's coach made him a short complement upon his safe arrival after ye danger and fateague of ye storm, and then offered ye ensigns of his office, which he was desired to keep for his Majestie's use. Immediately when

Mr. Richard Noble, then Baliff, had ended his complement Mr. Henry Wood, then curate, began ye following speech to his majesty :—

“ May it please your Majestie,

We, your Majestie's most dutiful and loyal subjects, ye Balif, Jurats and Commoners, Ministers and Parishioners of your Magestie's ancient Town and Corporation of Lydd, humbly beg leave, with hearts full of gratitude to ye divine providence which hath preserved yr Majesty from the imminent danger of ye seas, joyfully to congratulate yr safe arrival into yr Kingdom of Great Britain, to wish yr Majesty a safe and speedy journey to your Capital, and a long and happy reign over a dutiful and an affectionate people, a people who only want to know yr Majesty, and their own happiness, in order to love your sacred person with ye most ardent affection, and to return ye felicity they enjoy under yr mild and gracious administration, with ye profoundest and most cheerful obedience.

There is yet one wish remaining, wch we reserve for ye last, because we know it is what sits nearest to yr Royal heart, even yt it may please ye Divine Providence to prosper yr Majesty's pious endeavour fr ye protection and security of ye Protestant faith abroad, to ye maintenance of true Religion, to ye just confusion of superstition and Tyranny, to ye lasting honor of yr Majestie's name, and to the brightening of ye crown of Glory yt awaits yr Majesty in the next life.

May it please yr Majesty, I have a very high sense of ye great honor I now enjoy, but I am not at all forgetful of ye rigour of ye season, and therefor in tenderness to yr Majesty I must do violence to myself by putting an immediate stop to ye most grateful of employments, yt of prayers and good wishes for yt prosperity of yr Majesty and ye Royal family. But tho the due consideration of time and place obliges me to contract my own happiness my zeal for yr Majesty and yr Royal family shall always have its full scope elsewhere, even in ye Temple, in ye desk, ye pulpit, and at ye altar, and herein all considerate persons will, in yr several stations and capacities, follow my example as being entirely convinced, yt whilst they are praying for your Majesty and yr Royal family, they are in ye most effectual manner praying for a continuance of their own preservation and happiness.

I humbly hope your Majesty will be pleased graciously to excuse a faltering tongue, unable to express ye affection of a heart overawed by yr Majestie's presence."

Ld Townsend said yt his Majesty was well pleased with every part of ye speech, and so they drove on.

Originally there were both north and south porches, and it is seldom that a church of this size is seen without one or the other.

There was also a sacristy, with low, lean-to roof, on the south of the chancel.

From records we find that there were in the Church altars dedicated to many saints, and considerable sums were left for the purpose of keeping candles or tapers burning before them ; also for other purposes.

- “ Hamo Alayn gave 2 two sheep to the High Altar.”
- “ William Turnour to the lights as follows :—St. James, 3s. 4d. ; the High beam, 20d. ; of Westbroke, 20d. ; of Denge Marsh, 20d. ; St. Mary, 12d. ; St. Peter, 12d. ; All Saints, 12d. ; St. John Baptist, 12d. ; St. George, 12d.”
- “ Richard Cokeyde, of Denge Marsh, 8d. to High Altar ; 6d. to Fraternity of St. John Baptist.”
- “ William Godfray, of Westbroke, gave cow in equal shares to High Altar and Fabric.”
- “ Thomas Wynday, 20d. to High Altar, 12d. to Fraternity of All Saints, &c.”
- “ Thomas Atte Bregg, £5 to the Fabric, on condition that he be prayed for by name every Lord’s Day.”
- “ John Pulton, 5 marcs to the Fabric, &c.”
- “ James Harrye, 8d. to Light of St. John Baptist, &c.”
- “ John Mackett, 2d. to Altar of Holy Trinity.”
- “ Henry Bate, to the Mass of Jesus 6s. 8d.”
- “ Thomas Yonge, 12d. to High Altar.”
- “ Thomas Wynday, 4d. to High Altar.”
- “ Thomas Danyell, 3s. 4d. to High Altar, &c., &c.”
- “ William Langhode left a coverlet to the altar of St. Peter.”
- “ Vincent Daniel left a satin cloth for the image of Our Lord.”
- “ In 1490 Alice Kokyred left 3s. 4d. for a priest to celebrate masses in the church of All Saints, Lyde ; and to Isabel Kokyred, her sister, she leaves her best gown and her best cow, of browne colour.”

At one time the Church was used for sanctuary, as we find that one Alexander fled to the Church for a wound inflicted upon Simon Etterik, supposing him dead therefrom. Alexander Gray also fled to the Church for the same crime.

Among other curious records are the following :—

- “ Paid John Wolvyne of the debt to the Church from the torchesalver for setting of the torches, woodwork, ironwork, and labour of W. Benet, 3s. 6d.”
- “ Item of the comone money paid to the orgone maker for the orgone's whiche the church owith to the towne, 18s. 8d.”

An entry in the Chamberlain's accounts states :—

- “ That a certain sum was paid to the Corporation for damage to a road by carrying over it stone from the sea brought from Fairley (Fairlight) for the building of the new belfry.”

Among the many interesting inscriptions on tombstones in the spacious churchyard the following is, perhaps, the most noteworthy :—

“ IN MEMORY OF LIEUT. THOS. EDGAR, OF THE ROYAL NAVY, WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE OCT. 17TH, 1801, AGED 56 YEARS. HE CAME INTO THE NAVY AT TEN YEARS OF AGE, WAS IN THAT MEMORABLE ENGAGEMENT WITH ADML. HAWK, AND SAIL'D ROUND THE WORLD IN COMPANY WITH THE UNFORTUNATE CAPTAIN COOK, OF THE RESOLUTION, IN HIS LAST VOYAGE, WHEN HE WAS KILL'D BY THE INDIANS AT THE ISLAND OF OWHIE, IN THE SOUTH SEAS, THE 14TH FEB., 1778.

TOM EDGAR AT LAST HAS SAIL'D OUT OF THIS WORLD,
HIS SHEROUD IS PUT ON AND HIS TOP SAILS ARE FURL'D ;
HE LIES SNUG IN DEATH'S BOAT WITHOUT ANY CONCERN,
AND IS MOOR'D FOR A FULL DUE A HEAD AND A STERN.
OER THE COMPASS OF LIFE HE HAS MERRILY RUN,
HIS VOYAGE IS COMPLETED, HIS RECKONING IS DONE.”

Another interesting tomb is to the memory of John and Thomas Strugal, who died in 1551 and 1558 respectively. This is probably the oldest tomb of this class in Kent. Other names which frequently occur are those of Denne, Finn, Robinson, Godfrey, Skinner, &c., &c.

Holloway states :—

“ That in A.D. 774 Lydd was an island, its then name being Hlyda, from the Saxon name Ladian.”

In Henry IV.'s reign the following were sent to inspect the Marshes of Lyde, Bromhill, Middlele and Old Romney :—William Rikhill, William Makenade, Stephen Betenham, William Bertyn, Henry Horne, and John Pronde.

“ In 1478, in consequence of fears of inundation, Sir John Fogge and other justices appointed two bailiffs, twenty-four jurats, two collectors, and two exponditors to govern, keep, defend, and preserve from the peril of the sea and inundation of the fresh water by banks, water courses, &c., &c.

“ That Symonde's Wall and Kent Wall, and the banks in Eastmarsh and Becard were defective, and that they should be sufficiently repaired and be kept and continually maintained for the safeguard and defence of the said lands and marshes within the limits aforesaid.

“ That for the immediate reparation of Symonde's Wall and Kent Wall (on certain reasonable considerations) every person having land within Symonde's Wall and Kent Wall, and the bank called Gore's Wall, and everyone having land in the marsh called Ockholt, should pay 2d. per acre extra ; but afterwards the same to contribute equally with all others.

“ That if any person should make, rescue, or give resistance to any officer making a distress, or in the execution of their duty, he be fined 10s., to be levied on his goods and chattels for the common profit.”

In A.D. 893 we learn that the Danes came with 250 sail and sailed up a branch of the River Limen, which ran up between Lydd and Romney.

Some of the following records are both interesting and amusing. It is evident that “ no Corrupt Practices Act ” was then in force, and we can

imagine that both the Archbishop and his Steward received many a "sop to Cerberus," which considerably lightened their expenses during these tours.

"The Boy Bishop came over from New Romney on St. Nicholas Day each year, and was rewarded with fees and feasting."

"Paid for wine given to the Steward of the Archbishop of Canterbury when here at Lyde to have his friendship, 2s."

"1441. Expenses incurred upon Wraby, cross-bearer of the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, when here, 3s. 4d."

"For one cowpull of frankyd swannys sent to our Lord the Archbishop of Canterbury, he then being and lying at Maydenstone, to have his friendship for the whole of the town, 8s."

"1453. Given to the minstrels of the Archbishop of Canterbury when here at Lyde, 2s."

"1454. Expended upon a minstrel of the Archbishop in bread and wine, 5d."

"1445. Given to the minstrels of Our Lord the King, when here last year, 3s. 4d."

"1454. Expended upon a messenger of the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury when here on passing through the Ports to warn the men there to be present at the enthroning of the Archbishop, 2d."

"Given to the minstrels of the Lord the King, when here on the 4th of May, 6s. 8d."

"Paid for peace being made between the town of Lyde and the soldiers, and for the strife between this town of Lyde and these soldiers by ordinance of the Earl and Sir Andrew Hogard, Knight, 20s."

"Given to the players of Hamme showing their play here on the day of the Translation of St. Thomas of Canterbury, 3s. 4d."

"1430. Given to the players of Romene, who showed their play here on Sunday after the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist, the account day, 6s. 8d."

"1432. For wine given to John Shell on the day of St. Margaret the Virgin, for having his counsel, 6d."

"1454. Expended upon a minstrel of the Archbishop of Canterbury in bread and wine, 5d. Paid and given to him as a courtesy the same day and time, 3s. 4d."

"1468. Received from H. Shomakar for his servant Thomas Skot for an assault, 3s. 4d."

"Paid for two heryns for the Seneshal of Dover, 14d."

"Paid for three wylde malardys given to Derell, esquire, when he was here, in name of the Commonalty, 10½d. ; for fish given to him, 12d."

"1464. From strange man fishing here for their scot to the town, 23s. 8d."

About 1475 it was ordered

"That anyone found cutting or pikeyng purses, or other goods of lytille value, be brought to the high street and there his ere nayled to a post or cart whele."

Thus

"Paid for naylyng of Thomas Norys is ere, 12d."

A knife was given to the delinquent to release himself by cutting off his ear when he chose.

Proclamations were made against the too frequent playing of tennis and dice as an inducement for the young men to perfect themselves in the use of bows and arrows and other sports.

The first Charter, which has disappeared, bore date Feb. 12th, 1290. The earliest now in possession of the Corporation is dated July 12th, 1364.

The seal of Lydd is large, and bears in the dexter half a church with western tower having a pointed spire carrying a flag bearing a saltire; at the base of the spire are four pinnacles, while a cross rises from the western gable. Impaling this is a demi-ship with sail furled, the mast also carrying a vane charged with a saltire. On the high poop is a figure blowing a wide-mouthed trumpet. At the base are rolling waves. Around the margin are these words:

"S. comūne baronū domīni regis anglie de Lyde."

The seal of the West Ripe bears within a foliated space a mitre; while that of the Bailiff has the port arms, with supporters, and is surmounted by a coronet.

The following, taken from Boys' notes, is a list of the Bailiffs of Lydd between the years 1729 and 1790, with the number of times each served the office:—

JAMES BANNEWELL	4	JAMES BRETT	3
CHARLES COXSELL	4	JOHN PLUMMER	1
THOMAS BATEMAN	5	JOHN SKINNER	1
JOHN LEE	6	JOHN SHOOSMITH	6
WILLIAM TEMPLE	5	WILLIAM WAYLETT	6
MARK SKINNER	7	RICHARD DENNE	2
THOMAS COBB	1	JOHN GOODWIN	3
THOMAS PLUMMER	1	DAVID DENNE	1
THOMAS DENNE	1	ROBERT COBB	7

In many cases things are changed for the better.

The dwellers in High Street are not scandalized by the sight of a thief with his ear nailed to the door-post of the Town Hall, such culprits being now carefully housed in the neat red brick building near the station, pending their removal to a more commodious, if less comfortable, dwelling in the county town. Bribery, too, we trust, is a thing of the past, though should it now exist it probably takes a less clumsy form than the offering of a brace of franked swans or three wild mallards.

In place of the rude Passion Plays given in times gone by the strains of the beautiful organ now lead the musical services and re-echo through the sacred building.

Good roads extend from Lydd to all parts of the county, where once the pack horse floundered knee deep along the muddy track, and to add to the facilities for travelling the rail now connects the town with the metropolis ; while on a windy day the curious spectacle is seen of a trolley, propelled by a sail, scudding swiftly across the beach on a tram line from the Camp to the targets.

Instead of the old trained band, some leaders of whom lie in the old church, there is a stalwart company of Volunteers, while in the summer months the Ripe is dotted with the white tents of several detachments of our regular army, both artillery and infantry, the former of whom find a splendid range for their massive guns over the wide expanse of beach, while the latter are enabled to obtain excellent

musketry practice. Experiments are also made with the various kinds of explosives used in modern warfare. New houses are springing up in all directions, and as a consequence it has been necessary to enlarge the gas works and build a new police-station.

In the work of rescue from shipwreck the men of this district are world-famed, the same bold hearts which dwelt in the breasts of the sturdy smugglers of old still live in those of the men of Lydd, and on the wild tempestuous nights, so frequent on this exposed coast, the call to man the lifeboat finds no lack of volunteers. Hundreds of men, women, and children of all nationalities have been saved from a watery grave by these brave men, too frequently, unfortunately, at the sacrifice of their own lives; notwithstanding, they are still ready at the call of duty for the hazardous work. The fishing industry, unfortunately, is not so flourishing as in former years, but still this and the breeding of the famous Romney Marsh sheep, which in their thousands dot the rich pastures of the district, are the chief sources of wealth of the inhabitants. And, happily, notwithstanding the many changes inseparable from the onward march of time, still noted, as of yore, for their integrity, kindness, and generous hospitality are the people of the good old town of Lydd.



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